

APPENDIX E

SUITABLE LANDS

This appendix describes the suitable lands determinations required by planning regulations at 36 CFR 219. Although timber suitability is the best known, the suitability determinations for Roadless areas, oil and gas leasing, and range are also discussed.

TIMBER SUITABILITY

Table E.1 displays the acres of suitable and unsuitable lands available for timber harvest in Management Alternative B. These acres are described spatially on the Timber Suitability Map. The criteria used to determine lands suitable for timber harvest are specifically outlined in 36 CFR 219.14 paragraphs (a) through (d). Brief decision descriptions are listed below.

Unsuited - Non-Forest Vegetation: Lands which are not forested.

Unsuited - Withdrawn: Lands which have been withdrawn from timber production (i.e. designated Wilderness) by an Act of Congress, the Secretary of Agriculture or the Chief of the Forest Service. Also includes lands which have been precluded from timber harvest due to administrative purposes.

Unsuited - Not Capable and Not Physically Suitable: There is no reasonable assurance that such lands can be adequately restocked or technology is not available to ensure timber production from the land without irreversible resource damage.

Tentatively Suitable - Unavailable -Proposed for Withdrawal: Lands which possess the physical characteristics suited for timber harvest, but will/may be withdrawn due to legal or administrative purposes.

Tentatively Suitable - Unavailable - Resource Concerns: Lands which possess the physical characteristics suited for timber harvest, but resource concerns (i.e. old growth, winter range habitat, intermix areas, visual quality objective, etc.) preclude timber harvest. Also includes developed recreation sites, utility corridors, administrative sites, etc.

Tentatively Suitable - Unavailable - Management Area Incompatibility: Lands which possess the physical characteristics suited for timber harvest, but based upon consideration of multiple-use objectives for the alternative, the land is proposed for resource use that preclude timber production.

Tentatively Suitable - Unavailable - Financial/Economic Inefficient: Lands which possess the physical characteristics suited for timber harvest, but harvesting is not cost-efficient over the planning horizon, in meeting forest objectives.

Tentatively Suitable - Unavailable - Not Scheduled: Lands which possess the physical characteristics suited for timber harvest, but are not scheduled for timber harvest during this 10 year planning horizon.

Suitable and Available: Lands which are scheduled for timber harvest during the years 0 - 10 of the planning horizon.

Table E.1 Summary of Timber Suitability Decisions by Acres, ARNF.

DECISION	ACRES
Unsuited - Non-Forest Vegetation	294,068
Unsuited - Withdrawn	231,841
Unsuited - Not Capable and Not Physically Suitable	53,996
Tentatively Suitable - Unavailable -Proposed for Withdrawal	16,883
Tentatively Suitable - Unavailable - Resource Concerns	140,772
Tentatively Suitable - Unavailable - Management Area Incompatibility	142,119
Tentatively Suitable - Unavailable - Financial/Economic Inefficient	215,250
Tentatively Suitable - Unavailable - Not Scheduled	5,214
Suitable and Available	188,907

ROADLESS AREA SUITABILITY

Roadless area maps accompany this document. The criteria used to determine the location of roadless areas included the following definitions and direction:

From Forest Service Policy in FSH 1909.12.7.1:

.....”inventory all roadless, undeveloped areas that satisfy the definition of wilderness found in section 2© of the 1964 Wilderness Act.”

Definitions from the Wilderness Act section 2(c):

1.”generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable”;
2. “has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation”;
3. “Has at least five thousand acres of land or is sufficient size as to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition”; and
4. “may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value. (16 USC 1131)

From the 36 CFR 219.17:

Wilderness Act 2(c)3 is interpreted to mean:

- a. They contain 5000 acres or more; or
- b. They are contiguous to existing, designated wilderness; or
- c. They are self-contained ecosystems such as islands.

From Forest Service Policy FSH 1909.12.7.11.3:

Not to identify areas as capable for wilderness which:

....”contain improved roads maintained for travel by standard passenger-type vehicles”.

OIL AND GAS LEASING SUITABILITY

Lands were divided into three categories: No Lease, Available for Lease, and Not Analyzed. Tables E.2 and E.3 show the acres by decision for oil and gas leasing in Management Alternative B. Oil and gas leasing decision maps are included in the map packet accompanying the FEIS. Examples are listed for “no lease” and “available for lease”, below.

No Lease

- Areas withdrawn from mineral exploration and development by law (i.e. areas designated Wilderness);
- Areas that, by Forest Service decision, preclude mineral exploration and development (i.e. areas recommended for wilderness designation);

Available for Lease

- Available with standard lease terms (all federal leases contain requirements that may be generally sufficient to mitigate the impacts of development);
- Available with no surface occupancy on the lease parcel (directional or horizontal drilling must be used to reach the resource from adjacent lands).
- Available with controlled surface use (development is authorized on the lease, but activities must be controlled due to resource concerns, i.e. mitigating effects on 40-60% slopes, or visual quality objectives, etc.);
- Available with timing restrictions (development is not permitted during a period of less than a year long, i.e. restrictions during elk calving season or use of winter range, etc.);

Table E.2 Summary of Oil and Gas Leasing Decisions by Acres, ARNF

DECISION	ACRES
Standard Lease Terms	0
Controlled Surface Use	40,360
Timing	4,181
Controlled Surface Use-Timing-Wildlife	11,355
TOTAL LANDS WITH OCCUPANCY	55,896
No Surface Occupancy	47,144
TOTAL LANDS NOT LEASED	0
TOTAL LANDS ANALYZED	103,040

Table E.3 Summary of Oil and Gas Leasing Decisions by Acres, PNG*

DECISION	ACRES
Standard Lease Terms	0
Timing (Plover)	175,300
No Surface Occupancy	14,388
TOTAL LANDS NOT LEASED	2,860
TOTAL LANDS ANALYZED	192,548

* Note that this includes 58,113 acres on the Grassland that have private mineral estates. The Forest Service will incorporate the Stipulations shown as much as possible in these areas.

RANGE SUITABILITY

Maps displaying Range suitability accompanies this document. The criteria used to determine the suitability of land for grazing include the following definitions from 36 CFR 219.3 and direction from Forest Service Policy in FSM 2212.11 (1).

Capability - “The potential of an area of land to produce resources, supply goods and services. capability depends on current conditions and site conditions such as climate, slope, land form, soils and geology.....”. Specific capability criteria is as follows:

Non capable rangeland

- Slopes greater than 40%

- Severely erodible soils
- Forage production less than 200 lbs per acre.
- Rock, Roads, Cliffs

Suitability - “The appropriateness of applying certain resource management practices to a particular area of land...” Specific criteria used is as follows:

Capable rangeland not suitable

- Administrative sites
- Fenced recreation sites
- Designated management areas (RNA, Experimental Forest)
- Municipal watersheds
- Critical habitat for T&E species
- Designated scenic sites
- Areas where livestock grazing is not compatible with other objectives

At a minimum, a rangeland resource inventory must identify and determine the following:

- Lands suitable for livestock grazing as shown in the following table.

Table E.4 Summary of Grazing Decisions by Acres, ARNF and PNG

Decision	Forest Acres		Grassland Acres	
		Capable	Capable	Suitable
Areas open to grazing		68,153	192,504	192,504
Areas closed to grazing	293,434	0	0	0